

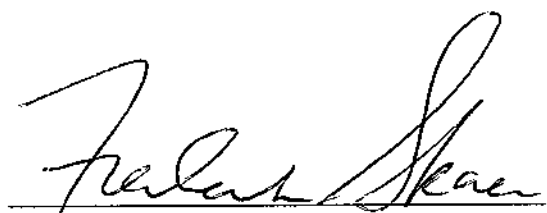
Coast Guard/FHWA Procedures for Projects Which Require a Coast Guard Bridge Permit

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA/State) Activities	U.S. Coast Guard Activities
1. <i>System Planning Activities</i> – Notify Coast Guard of projects on plan or Transportation Improvement Program that may require a bridge permit. (optional)	
2. <i>Project Initiation Activities</i>	
3. <i>Preliminary Environmental/Location Studies</i> - Assess potential for Bridge Permit and Coast Guard involvement early in the project development process.	3. Become involved early in process at FHWA's request.
3(a) <i>Data gathering</i> - Establish a Coast Guard contact (usually a Coast Guard District Office) and compile applicable information regarding location of potential crossing, i.e. waterway opening, waterway characteristics, type of waterway navigation, etc.	
3(b) <i>Determine if a Coast Guard permit is required</i> - Make 23 U.S.C. 144 (h) determination based on information obtained in 3(a) and through coordination with Coast Guard as per 23 CFR 650.805-807 (Subpart H).	3(b) Timely consult with FHWA/HA on permit jurisdictional issues. District will respond to FHWA/HA consultations within 30-days.
3(c) <i>Permit Pre-Application Consultation</i> - Coordinate with Coast Guard to determine information needed for meeting requirements of a Bridge Permit. Information needed by Coast Guard could include a description of overall project, proposed bridge design concepts waterway location, opening and height clearances, presence and disposition of existing bridge(s), etc. and preliminary environmental information.	3(c) Assess navigational needs and assist FHWA/State with draft EIS or EA; consider, as appropriate, preliminary public notice of project locations and evaluation of possible effects on waterway. Advise FHWA/State whether the proposed project meets the reasonable needs of navigation or is controversial.


<p>3(d) <i>Determine the Level of NEPA Environmental Documentation (CE, EA, or EIS)</i> - Based on project information, determine appropriate environmental class of action. For projects involving historic bridges, apply the provisions of Section 106 and Section 4(f) and the FHWA/Coast Guard guidance MOU of January 7, 1985. Coordinate with the Coast Guard using applicable guidelines. For multi-state bridge projects make sure that all of the affected State DOTs and responsible jurisdictions and oversight agencies carry out appropriate coordination efforts.</p>	<p>3(d) Become involved early in the process upon FHWA's request. Cooperate with FHWA in determining appropriate level of environmental documentation. Coast Guard will normally accept a FHWA CE provided it does not conflict with FHWA/Coast Guard guidance MOU of January 7, 1985 or other guidance.</p>
<p>3(e) <i>Bridge Permit Coordination</i> - Continue coordination with Coast Guard regardless of level of environmental class of action. For EIS projects formally request Coast Guard to be cooperating agency as per CEQ Regulations. FHWA will advise FHWA headquarters if there is a problem coordinating with Coast Guard field representative.</p>	<p>3(e) Coast Guard will meet and cooperate with the FHWA and the HA whenever requested to resolve problems and avoid unnecessary project delays.</p> <p>Coast Guard will serve as a cooperating agency when requested and will so advise FHWA within 30 days of receiving request.</p>
<p>4(a) <i>Environmental Documentation</i> - Prepare necessary environmental documentation based on project analysis. Include discussion of Bridge Permit application information as established in 3(d), potential impacts to the environment, and a discussion of results of ongoing coordination with the Coast Guard.</p>	<p>4(a) Comment on environmental documentation concentrating on the bridge(s) and approaches, with particular emphasis on adequacy of proposed clearances.</p>
<p>4(b) <i>Joint FHWA/State and Coast Guard Public Involvement</i> - Coordinate with the Coast Guard to determine if joint efforts for public notices, meetings, and hearing(s), especially in controversial projects are applicable.</p>	<p>4(b) Participate in joint public notice and hearing(s):</p> <p>Where requested by FHWA/State When sufficient information is available on a given bridge to avoid separate Coast Guard hearing.</p> <p>Coast Guard will hold/issue joint public hearings/notices whenever sufficient information is provided on bridge location and clearances.</p>

<p>5. <i>Environmental Documentation</i> – Continue environmental analysis, select preferred alternative and complete environmental documentation, furnish preliminary environmental documentation to Coast Guard for review, as appropriate, respond to comments received on navigation and environmental aspects of highway bridges. If the Coast Guard has not provided comments on the bridge permit related aspects, contact the Coast Guard and obtain their views on the adequacy of the current bridge permit information including navigational clearances.</p>	<p>5. Upon request, assist in preparing responses to any navigational issues received on environmental document.</p> <p>Review preliminary final EIS or FONSI and comment, as appropriate.</p>
<p>6. <i>FHWA approval of Final environmental documentation</i> - Complete permit application as required. Coordinate with Coast Guard to ensure adequacy of Permit information. If Programmatic Section 4(f) is utilized, provide Coast Guard with the supporting information for determining its applicability, including alternatives, mitigation measures, and Section 106 FHWA/SHPO MOA coordination.</p>	<p>6. If bridge impacts are adequately addressed in environmental documentation, Coast Guard will adopt bridge related portions of EIS, prepare own FONSI based on applicant prepared EA, and concur with any FHWA Programmatic Section 4(f). Coast Guard field bridge staff will cooperate with FHWA/HA to ensure bridge impacts are adequately addressed.</p>
<p>7. <i>Permit Application</i> – Whenever practicable submit application for Coast Guard Bridge Permit. (Permit application(s) may include alternate bridge designs.) Resolve any outstanding issues.</p>	<p>7. When permit application is included, review for completeness and issue formal public notice.</p>

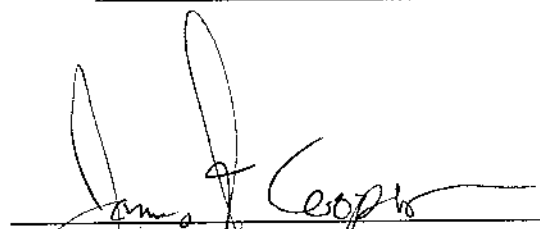
<p>8. <i>Permit Application</i> - If permit application has not been previously submitted, apply for permit as soon as practicable.</p>	<p>8(a) For applications submitted after approval of final EIS or FONSI, District reviews application and issues formal public notice.</p> <p>8(b) District concurs in resolution of any outstanding issues; forwards permit application with recommendation to Washington Headquarters or acts on permit application where appropriate:</p>
<p>9. <i>Complete bridge design</i> - If alternate designs result, notify Coast Guard of alternate design within 30 days of bid award.</p>	


FREDERICK SKAER
Director, Office of National Environmental
Policy Act Facilitation
Federal Highway Administration

Date: 12-10-2001


N. E. MPRAS
Chief, Office of Bridge Administration
U. S. Coast Guard
By direction of the Commandant

Date: DEC - 6 2001


JAMES D. COOPER
Director, Office of Bridge Technology
Federal Highway Administration

Date: 12-16-01